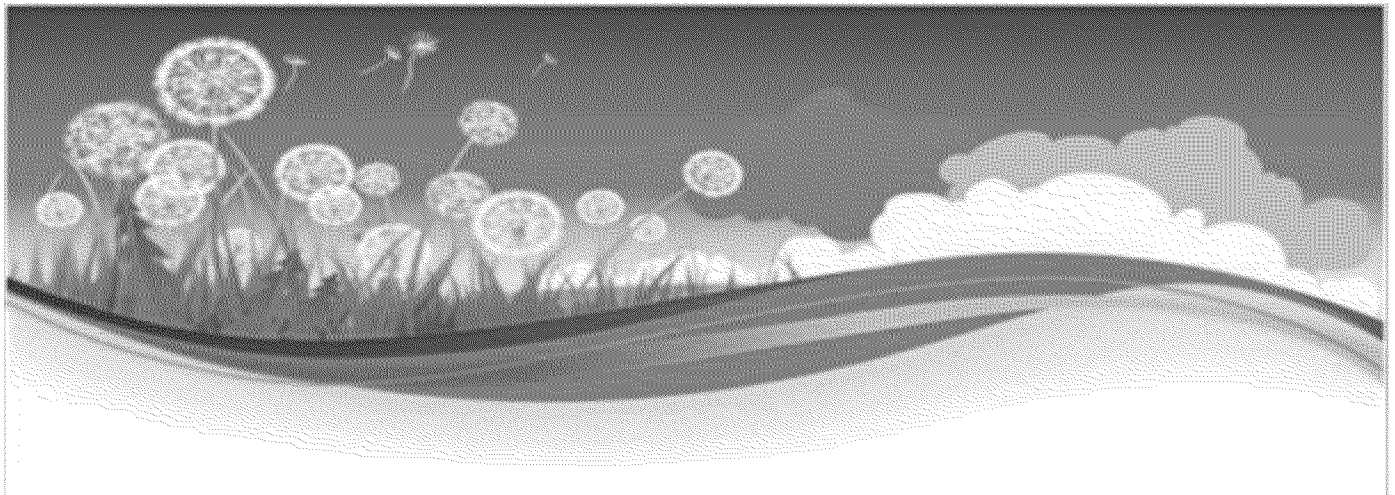


To: ORD-NRMRL[ordnrmrl@epa.gov]; ORD-NRMRL Feds and NonFeds[ORDNRMRL_Feds_and_NonFeds@epa.gov]
Cc: NRMRL Communications[NRMRL_Communications@epa.gov]
From: Bowling, Charlena
Sent: Thur 8/13/2015 8:39:40 PM
Subject: NRMRL News - week of August 10

NRMRL News

Bi-Weekly Update



August 13, 2015

The NRMRL News Bi-Weekly email is your one-stop resource for targeted NRMRL news, announcements, reminders, events, and other important updates. Good news and personnel stories are encouraged as well. If you have information you would like to submit for the NRMRL Updates, or any questions or comments, please e-mail NRMRL_Communications@epa.gov. Accompanying graphics or pictures are welcomed.

Important Announcements

• **Animas River spill in Colorado: Kelly Smith is NRMRL's Point of Contact regarding requests for assistance.** If you receive any requests directly from the Regions, Program Offices, or anyone else, please forward them to Kelly and your supervisor. Kelly will coordinate NRMRL's participation with NHSRC, who is leading ORD's response and assistance to the Regions.

• **New NRMRL QA Project Plan (QAPP) Cover Page.** In order to help ensure



consistency and completeness, a new NRMRL QAPP cover page has been developed and is available on the Intranet. This cover page should be completed for every QAPP that is developed by or for NRMRL. If you have questions, contact your Division QA Manager.

• **New NRMRL QA Tracking Database now available!** QA Track is a web-based system that will replace the Lotus Notes-based QLOG database. Beginning August 17, QA information will only be entered into QA Track.

○ **QA Managers:** All documents received for review need to be uploaded to the database (QAPPs, funding packages, products, audits), all review comments attached, and final signed QAPPs added to the project page when available. All QA documents must be tracked throughout the Lab/Division using the QA ID number generated by QA Track.

○ **Researchers:** RAP/Program information must be provided at the time of project creation. Use the new NRMRL QAPP cover page (provided above) to ensure all information is provided.

• **Requesting NRMRL-Cincinnati Metrology Lab Services.** The NRMRL-Cincinnati Metrology Laboratory at AWBERC offers calibration/verification services for pipettes, balances and secondary weights. A Metrology Request for Calibration Form (available online) must be completed electronically (Word) and emailed to Tracy Dahling before any

services will be performed. For balances and weights, an inventory list which includes the Metrology ID (new balances and weights will not have a number), manufacturer, model



(balances only) and location must be submitted with the form. When the form is received, a time will be set up for service.

● **██████████ FY15 Budget Reminders on year-end close out deadlines for expiring funds:**

○ August 27: weekly sweeps begin for any funding balances over \$5k that have not yet been committed

○ September 2: last day to obligate 2014/2015 funds.

● **██████████ REMINDER: All NRMRL products (reports, fact sheets, posters, etc.), whether external or internal, must comply with the Visual Identity Guidelines set forth by EPA. Templates are available on the Communications tab of ORD@Work. Adhering to these standards helps create a consistent, recognizable visual style. Plus, using the templates saves you time and effort, making your job easier! ☺**

● **██████████ Do you use Firefox or Chrome at work? Export your bookmarks prior to your hardware refresh date!** These bookmarks will not be migrated during the replacement, so you need to save them either on your Desktop or in My Documents. Read the instructions for exporting bookmarks in [Chrome](#) and in [Firefox](#).

● **██████████ The 2015 Feds Feed Families Campaign runs through the end of September!** Each EPA location will be conducting events to promote the campaign and collect needed goods. Help the Agency make it “A Summer without Hunger” as we all do our part to meet the Agency’s goal of collecting 158,000 pounds of food this year. [Visit the Feds Feed Families Intranet page](#) to locate your local food banks, access a list of Program and Regional Coordinators, learn campaign facts and figures, and more!

● **██████████**

Mandatory Training

Communications is looking for more people to be featured in the Faces of ORD column of the Weekly Compass! If you would like to volunteer or nominate someone, please contact [NRMRL Communications](#).

● **██████████ DUE SEPTEMBER 4, 2015: Cincinnati Environmental Management**

System/Safety and Health Management System (EMS/SHMS) Program. As part of Cincinnati's EMS/SHMS programs, we are required each year to train all onsite personnel (including contractors, grantees, and volunteers) on our programs and provide information on personnel roles, objectives and targets of the programs, and the metrics we use to measure our performance. Review the online training, and then send an email to EPA-CIN_EMS_Coordinators@epa.gov stating you have completed the EMS/SHMS awareness training. This training is for EPA-Cincinnati employees only.

• **■■■■■■■■■ DUE SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 (deadline extended) – FY15 Information Security Awareness Training is now available on Skillport.** This training emphasizes your responsibilities in the face of specific threats. This training is mandatory for all employees.

• **■■■■■■■■■ Mandatory Training for COR Recertification (Acquisition Specific Training) for all EPA CORs** was implemented by EPA in October. This training is to be taken only once during the COR's next recertification period, regardless of end date. CORs recertification periods can be found in your FAITAS profile. Information pertaining to the Mandatory Training for CORs may be found online on the Office of Acquisition Management's (OAM) Federal Acquisition Certificate for Contracting Officer's Representatives (FAC-COR) Program.

Upcoming Events

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- One EPA Web Weekly Office Hours for Editors-in-Chief and Content Developers – every



Monday, 2:30-3:30 PM ET

- ORD/OW Small Systems Webinar Series: Distribution Operations Options for Small Systems to Address Disinfection Byproducts – August 18, 2-3 PM ET
- CSS Workshop on Non-Targeted Screening – August 18-20
- EPA's 12th Annual Small Systems Drinking Water Workshop – August 25-27, Cincinnati
Registration open now!
- BOSC Homeland Security Subcommittee Meeting – August 25-27, Cincinnati
- SSWR Webinar Series: Diagnostic and Stressor Indicators and their Use in National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS) – August 26, 12-1 PM ET
- BOSC SSWR Subcommittee Meeting – August 27-28, Cincinnati
- ORD Management Council Face-to-Face Meeting – September 16-17
- BOSC SHC Subcommittee Meeting – September 24-25, RTP
- BOSC CSS Subcommittee Meeting – October 6-8, RTP
- ORD All Managers Planning Meeting [branch chiefs and above] – November 16-18, RTP

NRMRL News



●■■■■■■■■■ **NRMRL SHEM team selected for High Five in EPA's Aim High Campaign: Embracing EPA as a High Performing Organization.** The story, titled "Tablet-based EPA Facility Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Audits" was submitted under Category 3: Leveraging Tools and Technology. SHEM developed an application using Windows tablets that allow the team to conduct annual facility inspections using an electronic checklist and camera, rather than paper checklists. This effort has reduced paper use, saved data entry time, improved data accuracy, and made inspections more efficient. This story was one of five highlighted from 57 total stories submitted, and 28 finalists. Way to go, SHEM Team!

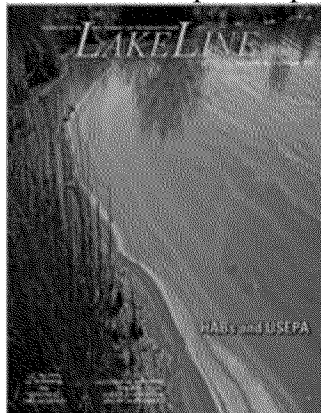
●■■■■■■■■■ **NRMRL nominees selected for Federal Executives Institute's (FEI) Leadership for a Democratic Society Program for FY15.** Eric Hubbell and Kelly Smith will attend the program, which is managed by the Office of Personnel Management. The FEI Program helps participants build skills in personal leadership, gain insights into organizational theory, and understand the policy framework in which government leadership occurs. Congratulations, Kelly and Eric!

●■■■■■■■■■ **Researchers interviewed by CityLab on urban stream burial.** Jake Beaulieu (WSWRD) and Heather Golden (NERL) were interviewed by CityLab, the urban affairs website published by the Atlantic. The reporter was specifically interested in ecological and social effects of urban stream burial, and her questions addressed the researchers' article in PLOS, "Urban stream burial increases watershed-scale nitrate export." Many cities, especially older ones, have buried streams under their pavement. EPA's research found that nitrates, toxic to humans in concentrated amounts, travel on average 18 times further in buried streams, primarily because there is little organic matter to eat up nitrates. The report, The Hidden Health Dangers of Buried Urban Rivers, is published online.

●■■■■■■■■■ **NRMRL scientists invited to participate in Research Experienced in Teaching program.** Todd Luxton (LRPCD) and Justin Clar (ORISE/LRPCD) were invited by the University of Cincinnati to participate in evaluating the final scientific projects of the Research Experienced in Teaching (RET) program, sponsored by the University. In addition to their evaluations, Todd and Justin served as EPA representatives exposing secondary teachers to research programs outside of a traditional university setting. The program provides teachers with

the opportunity to conduct research in the College of Engineering while participating in Challenge Based Learning and Engineering Design Process education programs. This program serves to further develop teachers and the academic community in scientific and technical areas by reinforcing the value of research and familiarization with ongoing EPA research themes. Nice job, Todd and Justin!

- **LRPCD scientist on international mission to Marcala, Honduras, August 10-15.** **Nicole Jackson** is volunteering with a Rotary International technical assistance team to provide a mid-project review of efforts to improve upon efforts to minimize water loss and waste



from leaking infrastructure in the water treatment and distribution processes. The team is also meeting with local administrators of water boards to discuss the impact of climate change on the local environment and develop water conservation strategies. Nicole has been volunteering with this team for over two years. Great work, Nicole!

- **LakeLine Magazine's Harmful Algal Bloom issue is now available!** This issue features stories from EPA and NRMRL staff, including WSWRD's **Nick Dugan** and **Darren Lytle**, and LRPCD's **Robyn Conmy**. Check it out!

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In Case You Didn't Know...

out more great NRMRL stories by visiting the [News section of NRMRL@Work!](#)

Have you encountered a blank drop down calendar while requesting leave in PeoplePlus? [There's a fix for that!](#) After clicking on the calendar drop down, hit F5 to refresh the calendar and provide the correct view.

If you have information you would like to submit for the NRMRL Updates, please e-mail NRMRL_Communications@epa.gov.